Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. – 3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition for inhalation therapy comprising a pharmaceutically active agent, an excipient and calcium stearate.

5. (Original) A dry powder composition according to claim 4 in which the calcium stearate is in particulate form.

6. (Currently Amended) A dry powder composition according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5 in which the calcium stearate is a hydrate.

7. (Currently Amended) A dry powder composition according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5 in which the calcium stearate is anhydrous.

8. (Currently Amended) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 7~~ in which the calcium stearate is present at a concentration of from 1 to 10% of the total composition.

9. (Currently Amended) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 8~~ in which the calcium stearate has an geometric size in the range 1 - 20μm.

10. (Currently Amended) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 9~~ which comprises two component of the excipient, the two components having different particle size distributions.

11. (Original) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 in which the fine and coarse excipient components are both lactose.

12. (Currently Amended) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~–11~~ in which the pharmaceutically active

agent is a combination of fluticasone propionate and salmeterol or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~–11~~ in which the pharmaceutically active agent is 3-(4-{[6-({(2R)-2-hydroxy-2-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-phenyl]ethyl}amino) hexyl]oxy}butyl)benzene-sulfonamide and / or 6α, 9α-Difluoro-17α-[(2-furanylcarbonyl)oxy]-11β-hydroxy-16α-methyl-3-oxo-androsta-1,4-diene-17β-carbothioic acid *S*-fluoromethyl ester.

14. (Original) A method of increasing fine particle dose performance for an active ingredient substance in a dry powder pharmaceutical composition for inhalation therapy comprising a pharmaceutically active agent and an excipient, which comprises mixing calcium stearate with said active ingredient substance and said carrier.

15. (Original) A method of improving stability performance of an active ingredient substance in a formulation comprising a carrier and an active ingredient substance, which method comprises mixing calcium stearate with said active ingredient substance and said carrier.

16. (Original) A method of eliminating or reducing the detrimental effect on fine particle dose of an active ingredient substance caused on storage in a formulation comprising a carrier and the active ingredient substance, which method comprises mixing calcium stearate with said active ingredient substance and said carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 14 ~~to 16~~ further comprising one or more of the features described in ~~any one or more of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of respiratory disorders which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) An inhalation device containing therein a dry powder pharmaceutical composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~.

21. (Original) An inhalation device according to claim 20 in which the dry powder pharmaceutical composition is released from a pre-metered unit medicament pack.

22. (Currently Amended) A medicament pack for use in an inhalation device which comprises an elongate strip formed from a base sheet having a plurality of recesses spaced along its length and a lid sheet hermetically but peelably sealed thereto to define a plurality of containers, each container having therein an inhalable composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~.

23. (Original) A medicament pack according to claim 22 wherein the strip is sufficiently flexible to be wound into a roll.

24. (Original) A medicament pack according to claim 22 wherein the lid sheet and base sheet have leading end portions which are not sealed to one another.

25. (Original) A medicament pack according to claim 24 wherein at least one of the said leading end portions is constructed to be attached to a winding means.

26. (Original) A medicament pack according to claim 22 wherein the hermetic seal between the base and lid sheets extends over their whole width.

27. (Original) A medicament pack according to claim 22 wherein the lid sheet may be peeled from the base sheet in a longitudinal direction from a first end of the said base sheet.

28. (Currently Amended) An inhalation device for use with a medicament pack according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 22 ~~to 27~~ which comprises an inhalable composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~, said device comprising:

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(i) an opening station for receiving a container of a medicament pack being used with said inhalation device;
(ii) means positioned to engage peelable sheets of a container which has been received in said opening station for peeling apart the peelable sheets, to open such a container;
(iii) an outlet, positioned to be in communication with an opened container, through which a user can inhale medicament in powder form from such an opened container; and
(iv) indexing means for indexing in communication with said outlet containers of a medicament pack in use with said inhalation device.

29. (Currently Amended) A medicament pack comprising a circular carrier disc which has a plurality of pre-filled, hermetically sealed containers formed integrally therewith and arranged in a circle, each container containing an inhalable composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~, each container being puncturable to form a hole on each side thereof to allow in use, air to flow through the container to entrain the powder contained therein.

30. (Currently Amended) An inhalation device by which inhalable compositions according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~ may be administered to a patient which comprises a housing, a tray mounted and capable of moving within said housing (via a plunger) adapted to receive a circular carrier disc medicament pack according to claim 29, an air inlet (through which air can enter said device) and an air outlet (through which a patient may inhale and receive said composition.

31. (Currently Amended) A medicament pack comprising a piercable capsule which contains an inhalable composition according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~.

32. (Currently Amended) An inhalation device by which inhalable compositions according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~ may be administered to a patient which comprises a body shell which has a nozzle at a forward end and which is open at the rear end, a sleeve fitted on the outside of the body shell and rotatable with respect to it, a means for retaining a piercable capsule according to claim 31 extending through the rear wall of the sleeve into the body shell, means for piercing said capsule when sleeve is rotated and a guard

to ensure that the composition and not the pierced capsule, passes through the nozzle.

33. (Currently Amended) An inhalation device by which inhalable compositions according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~ may be administered to a patient which comprises a nozzle, an air conduit connected to said nozzle for allowing a passage of air to be inhaled, a dosing unit comprising a storage chamber for the composition (which may also comprise a dosage indicating means) and a displaceable element for dispensing said composition from the storage chamber into the air conduit, a manoeuvring unit for displacing said element in relation to the storage chamber and optional deflector devices to provide accelerated airflow.